



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Arkansas Catfish Production Report

Released July 23, 2010



Cooperating with the University of Arkansas – Division of Agriculture
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This report contains the results from the **2010 July Catfish Growers Survey**. The data are also posted on our Web site at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ar> and in a more detailed report at the Internet address above. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaires and interviews for this survey.

July 1 Fingerling and Fry Inventory Up 19 Percent

Commercial catfish operations in Arkansas had 27.7 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2010, down 32 percent from July 1, 2009. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory with their respective percent change from a year ago are: large foodsize, 400,000, down 68 percent; medium foodsize, 8.47 million, down 23 percent; and small foodsize, 18.8 million, down 34 percent.

Arkansas was ranked third in the nation, behind Mississippi and Alabama, in total foodsize catfish inventory on July 1, 2010. Broodfish on hand totaled 65,000 fish, up 59 percent; total stockers, at 28.6 million, were down 32 percent; and fingerlings and fry, at 104 million, were up 19 percent from a year earlier.

Arkansas Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, July 1, 2009-2010

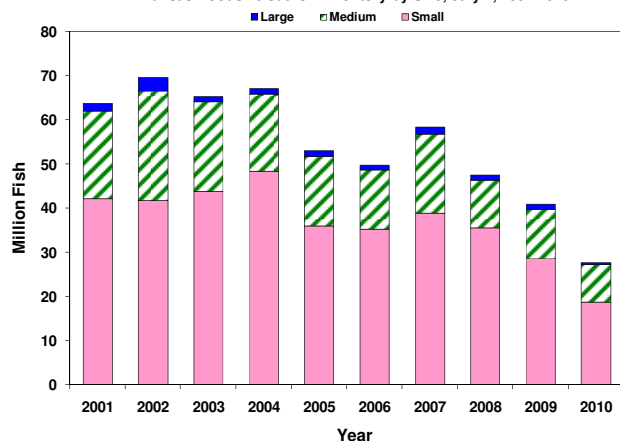
Type & Size	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight	
	2009 ¹	2010	% Change from '09	2009 ¹	2010	% Change from '09	2009 ¹	2010
	1,000 Fish			1,000 Pounds			Pounds per Fish	
Broodfish	41	65	+59	194	264	+ 36	4.7	4.1
All Foodsize	40,960	27,670	- 32	54,050	34,900	- 35		
Large	1,260	400	- 68	4,250	1,300	- 69	3.4	3.3
Medium	11,000	8,470	- 23	20,800	15,900	- 24	1.9	1.9
Small	28,700	18,800	- 34	29,000	17,700	- 39	1.0	0.9
							Pounds per 1,000 Fish	
All Stockers	41,900	28,600	- 32	10,000	7,690	- 23		
Large	20,100	14,700	- 27	7,600	6,150	- 19	378	418
Small	21,800	13,900	- 36	2,400	1,540	- 36	110	111
Fingerlings and Fry	87,600	104,000	+19	1,570	1,700	+ 8	17.9	16.3

¹ Revised.

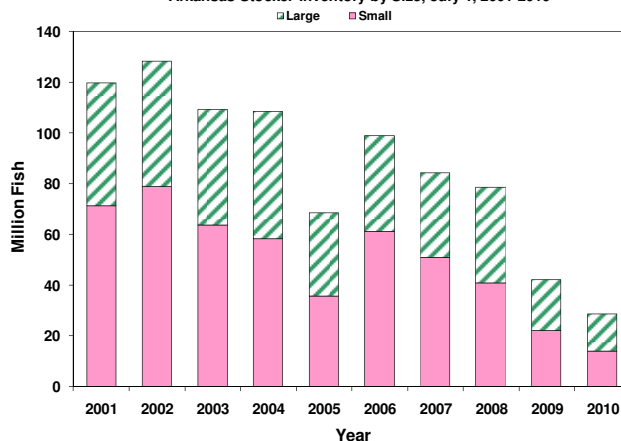
Definitions Used for Catfish Production Estimates

- Broodfish: Fish kept for egg production, including males, 3 to 10 lbs., or 4 to 6 years of age.
- Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs. per fish.
- Medium foodsize: 1 ½ to 3 lbs. per fish.
- Small foodsize: ¾ to 1 ½ lbs. per fish.
- Large Stockers: 180 to 750 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Small Stockers: 60 to 180 lbs. per 1,000 fish or over 6" in length.
- Fingerlings: 2 to 60 lbs. per 1,000 fish or 2" to 6" in length.

Arkansas Foodsize Catfish Inventory by Size, July 1, 2001-2010



Arkansas Stocker Inventory by Size, July 1, 2001-2010



Arkansas Water Acres Down 29 Percent

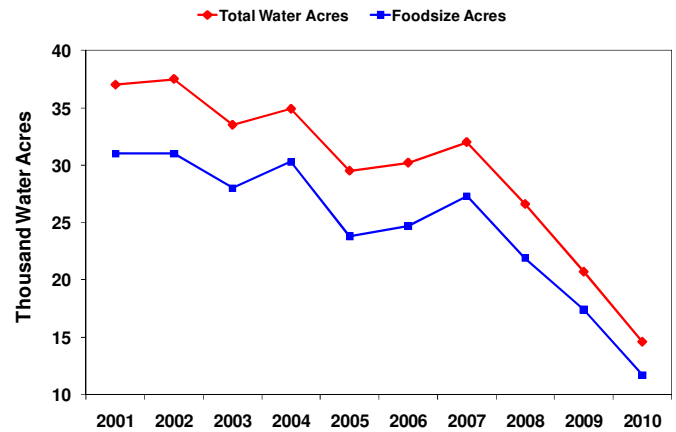
The water surface area to be used for catfish production in Arkansas during July 1 through December 31, 2010, totaled 14,600 acres, down 6,100 acres, or 29 percent, from a year ago. During July 1 through December 31, 2010, water surface acres intended for foodsize catfish production is expected to total 11,700 acres. A total of 3,300 acres were taken out of production during the January 1 through June 30, 2010, period.

**Water Surface Acres Used
for Production, During July 1 - Dec. 31**

State	2009 ¹	2010
	Acres	
AR	20,700	14,600
AL	21,700	20,600
MS	70,000	60,000
Total	112,400	95,200

¹ Revised.

Arkansas Total Water and Foodsize Acreage, July 1, 2001-2010



Water Surface Acre Usage by State, 2009-2010

State	Acres Intended for Utilization During July 1 - December 31										Acres Taken Out of Production Jan. 1 - Jun. 30	
	For Foodsize		For Fingerlings		For Broodfish		Currently Under or Scheduled for:					
							Renovation		New Construction			
	2009 ¹	2010	2009 ¹	2010	2009 ¹	2010	2009 ¹	2010	2009 ¹	2010	2009 ¹	2010
	Acres											
AR	17,400	11,700	2,700	2,300	250	330	1,300	*	0	*	2,800	3,300
AL	20,400	19,500	900	880	340	120	290	*	70	*	300	280
MS	55,000	48,000	11,000	9,300	1,600	1,400	1,500	900	0	0	8,300	3,000
Total	92,800	79,200	14,600	12,480	2,190	1,850	3,090	1,550	70	45	11,400	6,580

¹ Revised.

* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.